(vi) Guidelines have been issued by Government of India on 15-12-2004 to the States for rationalization of regulatory provision about felling and transport of trees grown on private lands, so as to promote tree planting by the masses.

(vii) State Government and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement a comprehensive media plan to create awareness about tree planting.

Encroachment on forest land

1128. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of encroachment on forest lands as on 1.1.2008, State-wise;

(b) the actions taken for eviction of encroachments during the last five years; and

(c) the action that are taken by his Ministry to claims of tribals on forest land for agriculture activities as per the recent Act passed by Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per reports received from State Forest Departments, the total area of forest under encroachment in the country is 16.96 lakh hectares. The State-wise details are given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) The actions to evict the encroachers and safeguard the forest land are taken by the respective State/UT Governments in accordance with extant Acts/Rules. Some of the steps to safeguard the forest land forest land from the encroachers includes—

- Demarcation of forest areas by fixing of boundary pillars.
- Regular inspection by field staff.
- Establishment of chowkies in forest areas.
- Strengthening of communication system.
- Active involvement of local communities through Joint Forest Management institution in protection and management of forest resources etc.

(c) The responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Act lies with the State/Union Territory Governments. The Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Tribal Affairs have issued directions to State/Union Territory Governments with special emphasis on speedy implementation of the Act, In addition, this Ministry has taken following steps—

- A simplified procedure to be followed for forest diversion cases to facilitate implementation of Section 3 (2) of the Act, Which deals with creation of public facilities for the right holders, has been finalized.
- Guidelines for identification and declaration of critical wildlife habitats have been circulated to all the States/Union Territories.

* Monitoring formats have been developed for quarterly reporting by States/Union Territories on the status of implementation of the provisions of this Act.

Statement

State-wise details of the area of forest under encroachment in the country.

Sl.No.	States	Area under Encroachment (in Hectare)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	293000 (15/10/07)
2.	Bihar	2634 (5/9/07)
3.	Chhattisgarh	157092 (1/1/08)
4.	Gujarat	22534 (1/1/08)
5.	Goa	1012 (10/12/07)
6.	Haryana	1188 (31/8/07)
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1481 (31/3/07)
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	14375 (4/12/07)
9.	Jharkhand	58446 (31/3/06)
10.	Karnataka	108405 (1/1/08)
11.	Kerala	12474 (1/1/08)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	240600 (30/6/07)
13.	Maharashtra	82695 (30/6/07)
14.	Orissa	57711 (1/1/08)
15.	Punjab	8400 (31/8/07)
16.	Rajasthan	32095 (1/1/07)
17.	Tamil Nadu	15214 (1/1/08)
18.	Uttar Pradesh	27612 (1/1/08)
19.	Uttarakhand	8757 (1/1/08)
20.	West Bengal	13086 (1/1/08)
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	89062 (1/1/08)
22.	Assam	349401 (31/3/07)
23.	Manipur	5244 (31/3/07)

1	2	3
24.	Meghalaya	9375 (1/1/08)
25.	Mizoram	19127 (1/1/08)
26.	Nagaland	10063 (28/9/07)
27.	Sikkim	3614 (1/1/08)
28.	Tripura	47758 (25/2/08)
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3340 (1/1/08)
30.	Chandigarh	Nil (1/1/08)
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	Nil (5/12/07)
32.	Daman and Diu	88 (1/1/08)
33.	Delhi	200 (15/3/07)
34.	Lakshadweep	There is no forest area in this UT.
35.	Pondicherry	Nil (1/1/08)
	ALL INDIA	1696083

Note : Area under encroachments in various States/UTs are as on the dates indicated in the brackets.

Ganga action plan

1129. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than Rs. 1000 crore have been spent on the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) project to clean it but the holy river Ganga still remains heavily polluted;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure of GAP; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to fix accountability of the agencies etc., who failed to execute GAP in its true spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase I, the first attempt as a centrally funded scheme for river conservation was launched in the year 1985. The Plan was taken up to treat partial pollution load to the river. Under this Plan, 260 pollution abatement schemes spread over 25 towns in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal were completed at an expenditure of Rs.452 crore leading to the creation of additional sewage treatment capacity of 469 million litres per day (mld). GAP Phase-I was declared closed in March, 2000. Since GAP Phase-I did not cover the pollution load of Ganga fully, GAP Phase II which included Plans for Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda besides Ganga was approved in various stages from 1993 onwards. The present sanctioned cost of works for